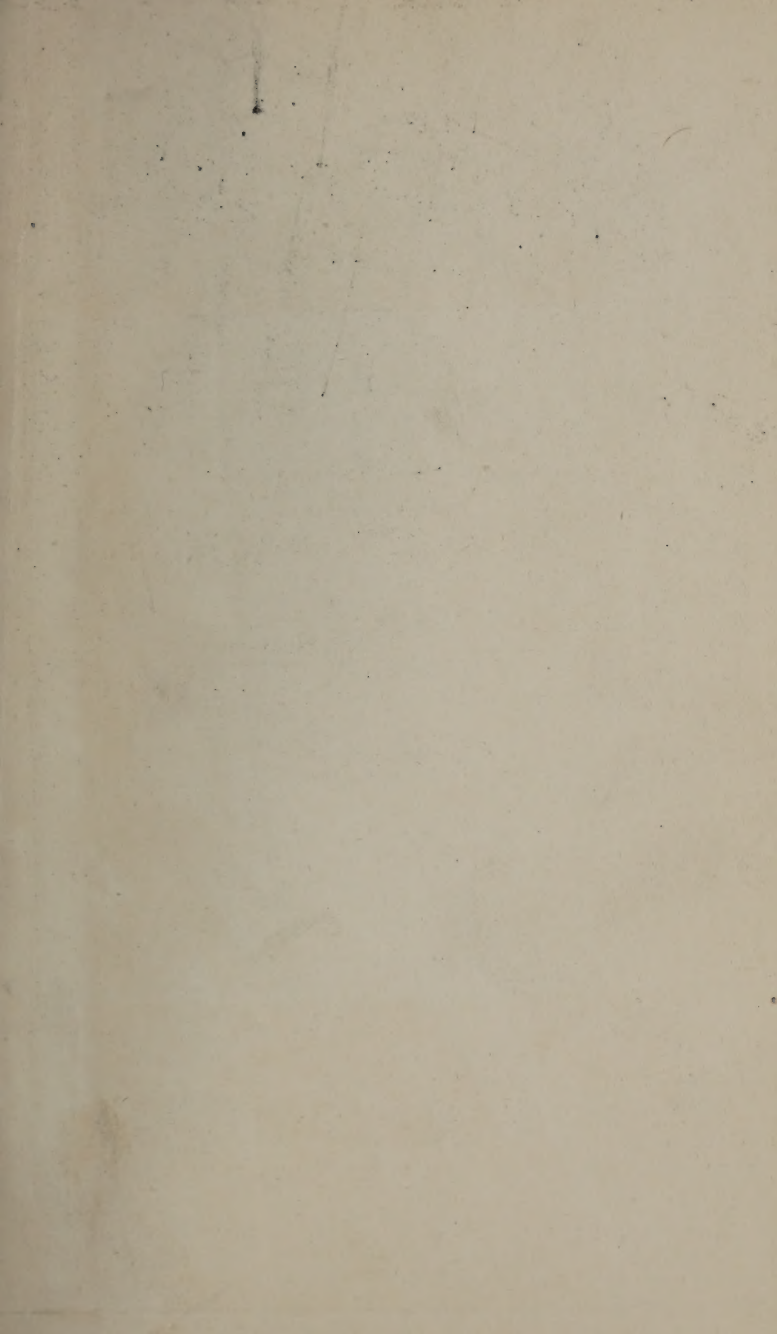




N<sup>o</sup> 4265.328



Miss Mary Estlin -







*Handwritten initials*

The DUTY of the UNITED KINGDOM  
towards the SLAVES of the UNITED STATES.

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A  
LETTER,

4265.328

BY THE

REV. SAMUEL J. MAY,

*of Syracuse, State of New York.*

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Price 1d., 8d. per Doz., or 5s. per 100. May be obtained on  
application to the Editor or Printer.

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BRISTOL: L. ARROWSMITH, 11, QUAY STREET.

THE DUTY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
TOWARDS THE SLAVES OF THE UNITED STATES

A

LETTER.

Miss Mary Estlin,  
Aug. 1849.

Price 1s. 6d. per doz. or 2s. per 100. May be obtained on  
application to the Editor or Printer.

## PREFACE.

THE following letter, in answer to an Address from a District Association, has been lately received. It seemed to several persons who read it so purely anti-slavery in spirit, and so well-fitted to rouse up the zeal which is but too ready to fold itself to sleep on the consciousness of past well-doing, that permission was obtained from the Committee of the Society to which it was addressed to publish it in its present form for general circulation. It is hoped that it may aid in diffusing a warmer and deeper compassion for our suffering brethren in bonds, and in warding off that deplorable evil which Mr. MAY affirms is threatening us, complicity with American slavery, through the influence of the growers and dealers in the staple produce of the slave states—cotton. God grant that our ears may not become deaf to the cries of the oppressed and enslaved in any land, nor our hearts hardened against their sufferings and wrongs, because we have large and fruitful intercourse of necessary business with the doers of injustice and unrighteousness.

Whatever may be the case with a few tainted by southern contact, or with more, crying—"We have done our work, it is peace: let us slumber and forget our days of iniquity!"—whatever may be the case with even an increasing minority in this country who, from various motives, lift up no voice for the coloured race, nay, are ready to deem them an inferior species, created for bondage and enforced labour—the great heart of this people of England is not turned away from their groaning brethren. They wait but for means and opportunities of showing their sympathy and rendering their aid. They know that cotton is necessary to their magnificent manufactures; that the great supply, at present, is of slave-grown cotton; that for a time that supply must continue to come to them covered and stained with groans, and stripes,

and blood ; but they are turning eager eyes to Africa, to India, to Australia, where there is abundance of soil fitted for the cultivation of cotton of the finest quality, which only needs the wise and prudent application of labour and capital to produce more than enough for all the demands of our machinery, untainted, unpolluted, free from all influences deteriorating our morals, and rendering the higher law of God a dead letter. Men, at once traders and conscientious, are spending time, thought, energy and money, to increase the production of free-labour cotton ; they look forward with philanthropic rejoicing to the time, not far distant they hope, when another and effectual arm shall thus be upraised against the monster iniquity, and shall crush it, with slowly descending energy, as the steam-hammer crushes the glowing mass of iron and prepares it for human uses.\*

A passage from the Address to Mr. MAY will show what gave rise to his admirable letter. "We remember your lifelong compassion for the slave ; your continued and indignant protest against his wrongs ; your fearless advocacy of his rights, from the time that you first occupied your pulpit until now ; your casting in your lot with those who, under obloquy, persecution and loss, for a quarter of a century have nobly stood undaunted, battling for liberty, trusting in Him who enlarges their hearts, nerves their arms, and inspires their tongues with living eloquence. Accept then, dear sir, for yourself, our respect and love, and our hope that you may be permitted to return in safety and renewed health to your family and church ; for your ministerial labours, our prayer that upon them the dew of God's blessing may descend ; for the great and holy cause of the abolition of slavery in the United States, our fervent wishes for its success, until they who have laboured and borne the heat of the day, may be enabled to say,—'Lord, now lettest thou thy servants depart in peace.'"

EDWIN CHAPMAN.

DURDHAM DOWN,

*Bristol, Jan., 1860.*

\* See Note on last page.



## LETTER.

SYRACUSE, Dec. 10th, 1859.

*To the Western Unitarian Christian Union.*

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,

I was extremely gratified by the unexpected receipt of your letter of October 19, from Moreton Hampstead. It came to me the day before I sailed from Liverpool and found me too busy to write you the reply which welled up from the bottom of my heart.

I hoped on our passage across the Atlantic to prepare an answer that should be mailed at Halifax. But the winds were a-head, the sea was rough, and I was too uncomfortable to do anything but walk upon deck, or lie down in the saloon or in my state room.

On reaching home, I was not only overwhelmed by the returning tide of parochial cares, but pressed upon heavily by the storm of excitement driving over our whole country from Harper's Ferry. So that I have not until now found an hour that I could give to you, and to other friends in England, to whom I am indebted.

Your very kind letter begins with grateful allusions to the natural beauties by which you were surrounded at Moreton Hampstead. It is my happiness, also, to live in a very picturesque part of our country. But just at this moment the whole surface of the earth is covered by snow six or eight inches deep. As far as my sight extends hills and vallies are alike dazzlingly white, and the trees

are patched and their limbs lined with snow. On the whole the scene is cheerless, and such is now the aspect of my country.

Our great natural advantages ; our widely-extended territory, comprising every variety of soil and climate ; our numerous lakes and rivers, making easy the communication of all parts of our country with each other ; our freedom from public debt ; our light taxation ; our distance from the Continent of Europe ; our free political and religious institutions ; all these inestimable blessings are overshadowed by one gigantic evil—*Slavery*. And we have come to find that its branches are so widely spread that it drops its poison upon every part of these United States, and yet has struck its roots so deeply, and entwined them so closely around the foundations of our Union, that they cannot be extirpated without overturning our Republic. And that catastrophe would not bring back peace and good fellowship. Far otherwise ; the cause of our dissolution would continue to be the cause of perpetual discords and conflicts. So that it is now obvious that we are to have war so long as slavery exists.

For the perpetuation of this “sum of all villanies” our churches and ministers of religion are mainly responsible. As Dr. ALBERT BARNES has said, “There is no power in our country out of the churches that could sustain slavery a day if it were not sustained in the churches.” Some apology may be made for those religious persons and ministers who have been born and brought up in the midst of slavery. They were educated to regard slaves as an inferior, subjugated race, intended by the Creator to be what they are, a higher kind of domesticated brutes. But the only reason why the churches and ministers of the non-Slaveholding States have tolerated, excused, and at length defended this self-evident and tremendous wrong, has been that they might, by their acquiescence, conciliate the members of their several sects in the Slaveholding States, and thereby extend and secure their ecclesiastical domains. The Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians, are especially guilty of this great sin, because they possess seven-eighths of the churches in the Southern

States. But all denominations excepting the Scotch Covenanters, Free Will Baptists and Seventh Day Baptists, are more or less implicated in the support of slavery. If Unitarians are less so than others, I fear it is because there are so few of our denomination at the South.

This terrible fact may indicate to you, brethren, in what way you, and the Christians of all denominations in Great Britain and Ireland, may assist to overthrow this system of iniquity, which is a reproach to all Christendom. Let the Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, and all other sects in England, Scotland and Ireland, remonstrate with their affiliated sects in these United States, and reiterate their remonstrances so long as the Christians of America continue to sustain or countenance a system under the operation of which every commandment of the Decalogue is grossly violated, and into which the spirit of Christianity cannot enter.

If you are not diligent in doing your duty in this respect, allow me to tell you that you are in danger of being yourselves corrupted by the influence of the great iniquity you will not help to overthrow. Cotton, the staple article exported from our country to yours, is the production of slave labour. Three-quarters of our immense crop is wrought into fabrics by your manufacturers. The intercourse between your merchants and our slaveholders and their agents is incessant. "Evil communications corrupt good morals." The truth of this Apostolic admonition is already becoming apparent in your country. I was grieved to hear in Liverpool, Manchester, London, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Glasgow, sentiments on the subject of slavery very similar to those that are current amongst the cotton merchants of New York and Boston, and the planters of South Carolina and Georgia. Be not offended if I say there needs to be a revival of anti-slavery faith and anti-slavery zeal in England. I am persuaded they have subsided much since 1834. In that year your nation did a noble deed. But she did not by that deed wholly atone for her momentous transgression against Africa. She was foremost in enslav-

ing the children of that continent, and she cannot be exonerated from anti-slavery labor and expenditure so long as there are any of that abused and blighted race under the yoke of bondage.

Believe me, I am heartily grateful to you, brethren, for your cordial expressions of interest in the abolition of American Slavery, and sympathy with those who have been contending against that unparalleled wrong. And let me pray that we may have your sympathy and your coöperation until our cause is triumphant.

Sincerely yours,

SAMUEL J. MAY.

To EDWARD BOWRING, Esq.,

Rev. EDWIN CHAPMAN,

Rev. WILLIAM JAMES.

*Note to page 4.*

SAMPLES OF COTTON FROM WEST AFRICA.—J. Aspinall Turner, M.P., has kindly forwarded to the Offices of the Cotton Supply Association an interesting case of samples of cotton and cotton yarn which he has just received from Dr. Livingstone. The sample of cotton is excellent; but the most surprising sample is a ball of yarn, spun by the natives, weighing 16½oz., the cost of which is one foot of calico, or 1d. The other samples of yarn are well spun, and very strong. This cotton was grown in the valley of the Shire, which is 100 miles long by 20 broad. The natives spin and weave it for their own use, and we are informed that so abundant is the cotton in this valley that a vast number of cotton trees are annually burned to the ground. The navigation of the Zambesi and the Shire is open to the centre of this cotton valley during a great portion of the year. It is evident, therefore, that a large supply of cotton may be readily obtained from this part of Africa by the adoption of an effective agency. Dr. Livingstone deserves the utmost support, both of the Government and of his countrymen, in his most zealous efforts to develop the vast productive resources of the regions he has now opened to commercial enterprise. The samples above referred to are on view at the Offices of the Cotton Supply Association, Manchester.—*Manchester Examiner*.

























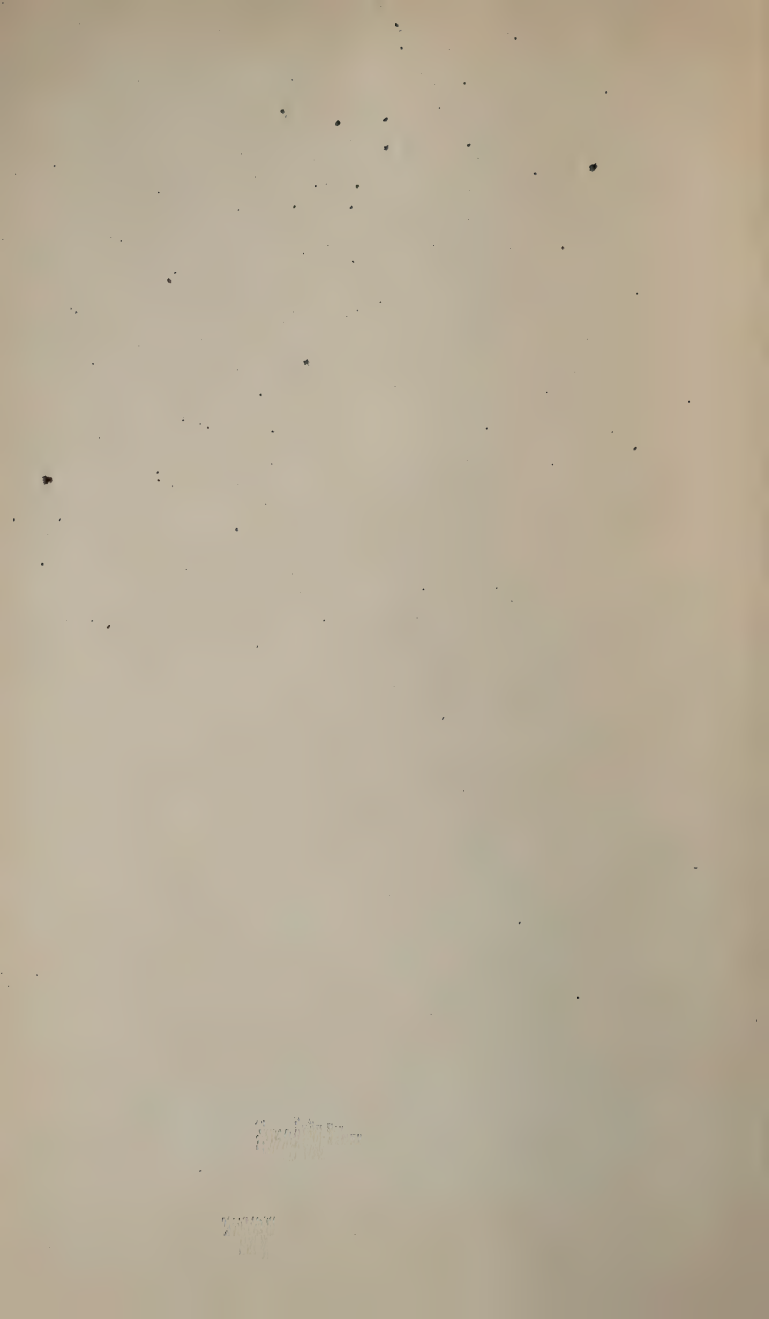


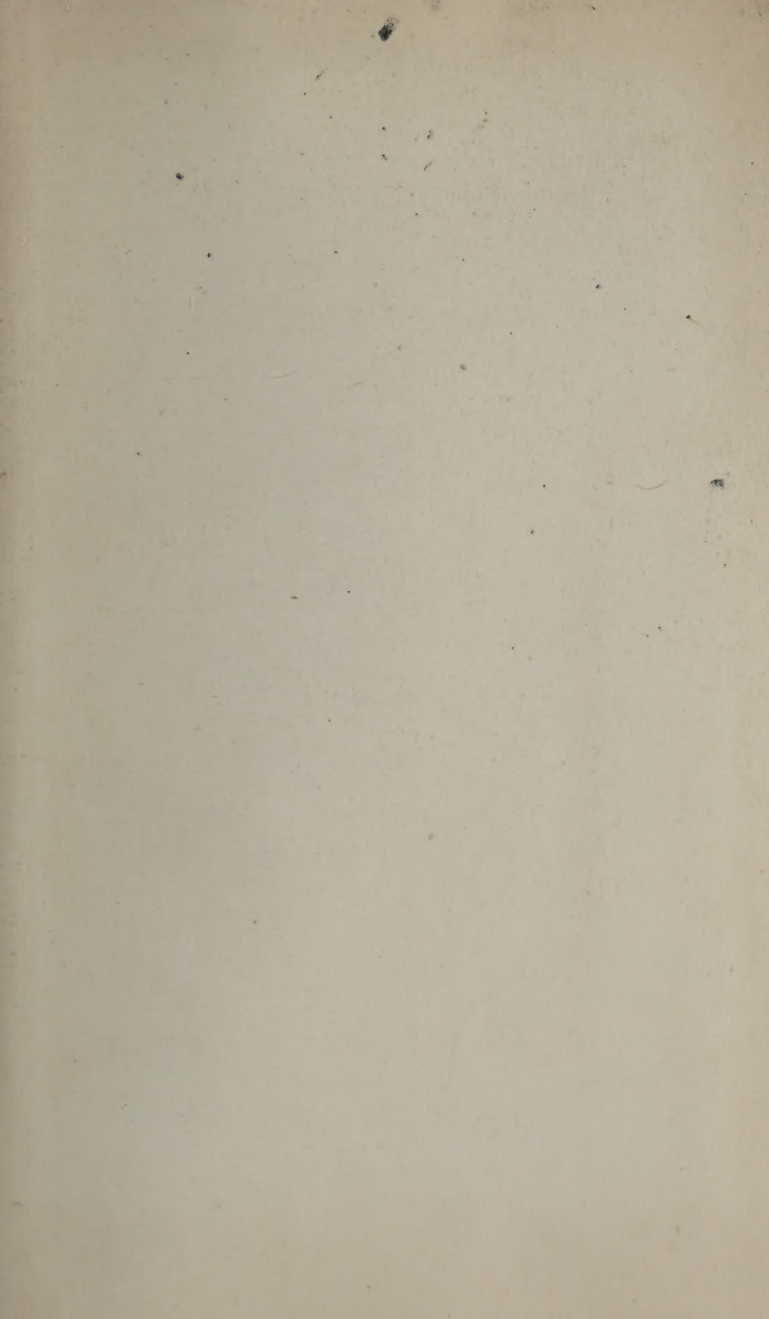












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